GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3127
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
POACHING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing incidents of the poaching of migrating birds in Chilika Lake in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of cases which came to the notice of the Government during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to stop such killing and marketing of birds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Government is aware of the incidents of poaching of migrating birds in Chilika Lake. However, as per the report of the State Government, no trend is discernible.

(b) As informed by the State Government, seven cases have come to their notice during the current year (2004-05).

(c) Steps taken by the State Government to stop killing and marketing of birds are at Annexure A.

ANNEXURE A

ANNEXURE A REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3127 REGARDING POACHING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.12.2004

i. Bird protection committees have been constituted in 20 villages adjacent to the lake by drawing members from the fishermen and other communities to actively prevent poaching and poisoning of birds and to provide information to the Forest Department about cases of killing of birds.

ii. Tangi Range which covers the northern Chilika belt is the area where most of the activities of bird poaching take place. A control room has been set up at this Range office as a Nodal Centre for round the clock monitoring of all enforcement activities for bird protection. Patrolling in the bird congregation areas in the lake has been carried out from 7 camps set up on the peripheral villages to keep constant watch on the activities of shooting, poisoning, trapping or snaring of birds.

iii. Surprise check of boats plying in the lake are being carried out frequently. Similar surprise checks are made on the vehicles plying in the area on the village roads and on the National Highway to detect bird meat.

iv. Four patrolling squads have been formed and each squad is equipped with guns, VHF sets and they have been reinforced by engaging temporary personnel from the locality on contract basis.

v. Watch and ward has been mounted in the paddy fields surrounding the lake where birds flock for foraging and roosting to prevent poaching and poisoning in these areas.

vi. The Youth Clubs, local NGOs, Bird Protection Committees and Fishermen`s cooperatives have been mobilized through motivation camps organized by the Chilika Wildlife Division to isolate the elements indulging in poaching and poisoning of birds. Publicity and signages have been put near the eating houses on the road side to inform the people to desist from eating bird meat which may contain poison.

vii. One Section of APR Force (Armed Police Personnel) has been deployed at Sorana village for assisting the Forest staff in tackling law and order problems in course of search, seizure and arrest of offenders.